

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY PM/DCA:EIFFT/INR/STA:RSAVITT:JMP

APPROVED BY PM:GVEST

PM/DCA:VBAKER

INR/STA:LFINCH

EA/J:RDEMING

EUR/RPM:JHAWES

ACDA :SGRAYBEAL

PM:JGOODBY S/S:FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 296566 TOSEC 240287

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: BRIEFING ALLIES ON SALT COMPLIANCE

FOR SONNENFELDT FROM VEST

1. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON DECEMBER 9 THE SECRETARY ADDRESSED A NUMBER OF ISSUES CONCERNING SOVIET COMPLIANCE WITH THE SALT ONE AGREEMENTS. PM HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY WITH A REQUEST FOR A BRIEFING ON SALT COMPLIANCE. WE HAVE RESPONDED THAT WE CANNOT NOW GO BEYOND THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT HAVE THEIR REQUEST UNDER REVIEW. WE MIGHT ANTICIPATE SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM OTHER ALLIES.

2. THERE APPEAR TO BE FOUR OPTIONS FOR HANDLING SUCH REQUESTS:

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1. TURN DOWN THE JAPANESE REQUEST AND ANY OTHERS

WHICH ARE RECEIVED.

2. BRIEF EACH ALLY REQUESTING A BRIEFING.

3. TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN OFFERING SEPARATE BRIEFINGS TO SELECTED ALLIES (THE UK, FRG, FRANCE, CANADA, ITALY, AND JAPAN).

4. TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN OFFERING BRIEFINGS TO TWO SEPARATE GROUPS, THE NATO ALLIES AND THE PACIFIC ALLIES (JAPAN, N.Z. AND AUSTRALIA).

3. OPTIONS 2, 3 AND 4 COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY HAVING SID GRAYBEAL CONDUCT THE BRIEFINGS HERE IN WASHINGTON, WITH STATE PARTICIPATION. WE ENVISAGE THAT SID WOULD BE ABLE TO GO SOMEWHAT BEYOND THE SECRETARY'S DECEMBER 9 REMARKS (E.G., IN TERMS OF DESCRIBING MORE OF THE DETAILS AND THE STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF SOME ACTIVITIES) WHILE AVOIDING THE DETAILS OF US-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS. TALKING POINTS COULD BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW PRIOR TO THE BRIEFINGS.

4. A U.S. INITIATIVE IN OFFERING BRIEFINGS ON COMPLIANCE (OPTIONS 3 AND 4) COULD LEAD THE ALLIES TO EXPECT THAT INFORMATION GOING SUBSTANTIALLY BEYOND THE SECRETARY'S DECEMBER 9 PRESS CONFERENCE IS TO BE PROVIDED. ON THE OTHER HAND, REFUSAL TO MEET WITH ALLIES WHO REQUEST A BRIEFING (OPTION 1) COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN INDICATION THAT INFORMATION ON SOVIET NONCOMPLIANCE IS BEING WITHHELD AND THE U.S. WOULD PREFER TO AVOID THE SUBJECT. BY RESPONDING AFFIRMATIVELY TO REQUESTS FOR BRIEFINGS (OPTION 2), THE US WOULD NEITHER GENERATE FALSE EXPECTATIONS NOR APPEAR TO BE OVERLY SENSITIVE ON THE SUBJECT OF COMPLIANCE.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT YOU APPROVE BRIEFING EACH ALLY WHICH REQUESTS A BRIEFING (OPTION 2).

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APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

ALTERNATIVELY, THAT YOU APPROVE OFFERING BRIEFINGS TO TWO SEPARATE GROUPS, THE NATO ALLIES AND THE PACIFIC ALLIES (JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA) (OPTION 4).

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, TREATY COMPLIANCE, INFORMATION CONTROL, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE296566
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EIFFT/INR/STA:RSAVITT:JMP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750437-0726
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751238/aaaabhhc.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by GarlanWA>; RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <24 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING ALLIES ON SALT COMPLIANCE FOR SONNENFELDT FROM VEST
TAGS: PARM, US, XG, UR, JA
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006